

New Jersey Homicide Facts, 2003-2004

- New Jersey's homicide rate was the 14th lowest in the nation in 2002, and the 3rd lowest in the Northeast region.
- The New Jersey homicide rate increased sharply in 2003 to 5.3 per 100,000, from 4.0 per 100,000 in 2002. Preliminary 2004 data indicate that the statewide homicide rate dropped to 4.3 per 100,000.
- The recent increase in homicide is concentrated among black males aged 15-34 years.
- Homicide is the second leading cause of death behind motor vehicle injuries for New Jersey young people aged 15-24.
- The demographic group with the highest homicide rate is black males, who are 17 times more likely to be homicide victims than the lowest group, white females.
- Men were four times more likely than women to be victims of homicide in 2003, and 14 times more likely to be perpetrators of homicide.
- 59% of homicides were committed with firearms – more than any other method. Other major weapons include sharp instruments, suffocation and personal weapons (fists, feet, etc.).
- About 28% of identified suspects are under the age of 21**.
- The major reasons for New Jersey homicides are commission of another crime, such as robbery, arguments between parties and intimate partner violence*.
- Women are far more likely to know their assailant as compared with men and one out of every three female homicide victims is killed by an intimate partner*.

*Analysis restricted to homicides in which circumstances were known (N = 158). **Suspects were identified in 272 cases (62%). Sources: New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System, Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; CDC WISQARS; New Jersey Uniform Billing (UB-92) data.



The New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement U17/CCU222395-03 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

